

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Working Documents

1983 - 1984

---

16 May 1983

DOCUMENT 1-296/83

MOTION FOR A RESOLUTION

tabled by Mrs VAN DEN HEUVEL

for entry in the register

pursuant to Rule 49 of the Rules of Procedure

on a universal amnesty for all prisoners of conscience

LAPSED

The European Parliament,

- A. having regard to the resolution on human rights in the world,
- B. whereas Amnesty International has called for a general amnesty for all prisoners of conscience,
- C. whereas Amnesty International requested, at the hearing on human rights organized by the Political Affairs Committee, that this call should be supported,

Supports the following declaration:

A UNIVERSAL AMNESTY FOR ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

THOUSANDS of men and women are in prison throughout the world solely because of their political or religious beliefs. Others are held because of their colour or ethnic origin. These are Prisoners of Conscience - none has used or advocated violence.

NONE of these people should be in prison. The fact that they have been arrested and punished because of their beliefs or origins is an affront to humanity. They should be freed unconditionally.

WE CALL FOR A UNIVERSAL AMNESTY FOR ALL PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

WE BELIEVE that such an amnesty, backed by the United Nations and declared by all governments, is possible. It would give effect to the moral and legal principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

WE ISSUE this call in the belief that there is an indissoluble link between human rights and peace. An amnesty for all prisoners of conscience would be an unparalleled act in the building of international confidence and the promotion of fundamental freedoms. It would advance respect for human rights everywhere, securing thereby the foundations for justice, freedom and peace.

This Appeal extends to all those adopted as prisoners of conscience by Amnesty International and to those falling within its definition of such prisoners.

The appeal will be presented to the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations and to all Heads of State.